

Egbert Harris to Andrew Jackson, August 13, 1822, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

EGBERT HARRIS TO JACKSON.

Franklin, Alabama, August 13, 1822.

D'r Genrall, I receaved yours yesterday dated the 3 of this month. I was abead and unable to ride with a heigh feaver of course could not go in purson to see Kemper, but my friend Jonhn Caffery mounted my Horse for the purpose of seeing him for me. when mr Caffery reachd the River, he met mr Crauford who stated to him that it was unnecessary to see him as he had in the most positive language stated he could not commence your worke untill first of October if then, and that I had better Employ other Workemen. this is from mr Crawford to me, who is here at this time and the message sent by him to me from Kemper, which is tantamount to the conversation which passed between Kemper and me, a few days since. If my Helth was such that I could in Justice to myself ride as fare I would see him again though I deam it unnecessary as he stated to me he did not conceive the contract a postive one, that he could not weight all the year for your work, he Expected to have done yours first—if at all and that he should commence major McKenlys.

Speaking of your press timbers you say that I will find hughers among your hands. I can say in answer this job is a particular one and requires good hands. I have tryed argile and Lampson, the Old man who engaged to get the logs was sick and could not get them as soon as I wished to raise the House. I goot mr Crawford to assist in compleateing the Job, there was Only 8 to get. I gave mr Crawford 4 good hands he compleated that Job in too days, when the Old man did one day with another git 3 without aney assistance, if this suits you It shall hereafter me. the too days in hughing with 4 hands besides himself and

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one day and ½ in raseing the Body of my gin House is all the assistance I have receaved from mr Crawford since you lift me. mr Crawford alone, commenced to day the drawing of the poles gotten for rafters. I state these facts that you may not be deceived as I Judge from your letter that you think I have receaved aid from mr Crawford. I thought you knew mr Crawfords disposition. I looked upon him as your friend whom you wished to remain here for purposes I knew nothing of. this Lot is one he engaged of you and not me, Or I should have had the roof framed the same time I rased the Boddy, mr Crawford had nothing Else to do, for too months, this would have saved me trouble and Expedited your Business.

These facts I state to you as my first friend that you may not be deceived. I deam it a duty that I owe you, I will discharge that duty however disagreeable it may be to my feeling. when he will finish the roof You can Judge, there has been no excuse for the want of materials and shall be none so fare as I am autherised. the Old man I fear will not be able to worke in some time but I have gotten mr Caffery to assist too of my Boys in gotten the shingles which I will compleate in a shorte time, long before they can be Used. I can Engeage a Workeman who will if the Carpenters worke is done have the Gin and Press up in due time, and in a workeman like manner. But sir say when your roof will be compleated I cannot. of course my workem[en] if engaged cannot be in fault for the neglegence of Others. I have Advised mr Crawford to hire hands and compleate the House. As to plank he told me he had Engaged 900 feet at Fugans [?] mill. I suppose he thought it would be enough, and I presume he is a Judge. so soon as I receaved the Boat, I had it knocked to peaces and halled to the House where he had evry Oppertunity of measureing and seeing the plank, the sise of the House was known to him, I say nothing more at preasent. I have had a sevear attact of the feaver, mary is sick. But none of us dangerous, I can see my hands Occasionally. I am yours in the heighest turms of Respect